

## Terms of reference for Bologna working groups

<b>Name of the coordination group</b> Social dimension
<b>Contact person (Chair)</b> E. Michael (Cyprus) Correspondence via Bologna Secretariat
<b>Composition</b> (Please ensure the necessary balance with regard to geography, size, old vs. new, countries vs. organisations etc.)  <u>Countries:</u> Belgium/French Community, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Hungary, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Montenegro, Portugal, Romania, Russia, United Kingdom  <u>Organisations:</u> ESU, EUA, UNESCO-CEPES
<b>Purpose and/or outcome</b> To guarantee European comparability of information given on national strategies and regarding the definition of the parameters that should go in the reporting ("template" for national action plans). The coordination group should not be entrusted with proposing new definitions as there is a clear definition given in the London Communiqué.
<b>Reference to the London Communiqué</b> 2.18 Higher education should play a strong role in fostering social cohesion, reducing inequalities and raising the level of knowledge, skills and competences in society. Policy should therefore aim to maximise the potential of individuals in terms of their personal development and their contribution to a sustainable and democratic knowledge-based society. We share the societal aspiration that the student body entering, participating in and completing higher education at all levels should reflect the diversity of our populations. We reaffirm the importance of students being able to complete their studies without obstacles related to their social and economic background. We therefore continue our efforts to provide adequate student services, create more flexible learning pathways into and within higher education, and to widen participation at all levels on the basis of equal opportunity. 3.3 Similarly, we will report on our national strategies and policies for the social dimension, including action plans and measures to evaluate their effectiveness. We will invite all stakeholders to participate in, and support this work, at the national level.
<b>Specific tasks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To design a template for national action plans, to assist countries in drawing up their national action plans, and to facilitate the sharing of experience.</li><li>• To consider the contribution of the social dimension to the Beyond 2010 discussion.</li><li>• Coordination of 2 Bologna seminars on social dimension (Malta, 25-26 September 2008 and Budapest, 10-11 November 2008)</li></ul>

**Reporting**

Minutes of working group meetings will be made available to BFUG on the protected part of the website (by the Bologna Secretariat).

BFUG should also receive regular reports and updates.

To allow for good communication with BFUG as a whole and for the necessary consultations, progress reports should be submitted at least two weeks before each BFUG meeting. In between BFUG meetings, updates can be circulated by the Bologna Secretariat via e-mail.

Deadline for final report (draft version): 15 January 2009

Deadline for final version: 1 March 2009

**Meeting schedule**

There should be no working group meetings in the last two weeks before any BFUG meeting (see point on reporting).

Dates TBC.

The establishment of the coordination group was only confirmed late December 2007. As the stocktaking working will need a first draft template for the social dimension action plans for its meeting of 7 February 2008 the group will start with electronic consultation on this issue first.

A meeting will be scheduled in Spring 2008 in order to prepare the analysis of the NAPs and the coordination of the Bologna seminars in fall (Malta, 25-26 September and Budapest, 10-11 November 2008).

The template for the NAPs for the social dimension will be annexed to the questionnaire for the national reports on the implementation of the Bologna Process as a whole to be returned to the Bologna Secretariat by 15 November 2008.

Therefore, at the end of 2008 a meeting will be necessary relating to the analysis of the NAPs, for which the Bologna Secretariat will hire an expert, to feed in in the stocktaking report.

**Liaison with other action lines**

Please specify how the cooperation will be organised

Liaison with stocktaking : see information under "meeting schedule".

Liaison with data collection and LLL via participating countries and organisations represented in both the social dimension working group and the data collection and/or LLL group and via Bologna Secretariat.

**Additional remarks**